implemented. The attendance of children is also not increasing due to this fact. There is no attraction in children. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister, whether the Government would make arrangement to ensure availability of meal in schools and at the same time would issue any direction providing rice for the month with a view to provide food daily.

[English]

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I appreciate the point raised by the hon. Member. I have already stated that some States are giving cooked food. For example, the Delhi Government is giving bread and the Tamil Nadu Government is giving cooked rice. Some States are doing it at their own cost.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Some States are digesting it.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : It is meant for digestion. Foodgrains are meant for digestion.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : But not by adults, but by children.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : The matter was discussed in a conference of state Education Ministers held on 10 August, 1997. The Committee held six or seven meetings. They have recommended that cooked food should be given so that it directly helps the children and the cost should be borne by both the Central Government and the State Government on fifty-fifty basis. The matter has to be considered by the Central Government. I am taking up the matter with the Cabinet.

[Translation]

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Minister has stated, this scheme is being run for more than two years. All these are Government statistics. People's representation are present here. This scheme has not been successful at any place. Will the hon'ble Minister be pleased to state any other way than the Government statistics whereby its correct position could be ascertained. This scheme has certainly given boost to the number of school going children. But, have they got meals? It is a fact that this scheme has failed in whole of the country and the Government have spend Rs. 526 crores. This scheme would be more successful, if meal is provided in schools. But, if foodgrains are provided, it would definitely be a failure. You leave the Government figures and you can take the opinions of the people's representatives. Will the Minister think over it?

[English]

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Sir, I do agree with the hon. Member's view that it would be better to give cooked food as then only it would directly reach the child. Some States are already doing it, as I have already said and I will repeat it. For example, the Delhi Government is giving bread and every child gets it. In Tamil Nadu, it is being done for the last 20 years, since the days of Shri K. Kamraj. Rice is being given there.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Is there any other state except the two states?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S.R. BOMAI : Let me answer.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Whether it is provided in any other state except Delhi and Tamilnadu...*(Interruptions)* In which state you propose to provide cooked food?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have to answer the hon. Member.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Even Haryana and Madhya Pradesh tried to give cooked food but they have stopped it now. I would repeat again. There is a proposal of the conference of State Education Ministers. Saikia, that cooked food should be given and its cost should be borne both by the Central Government and the State Government. I am taking up the matter with the Cabinet. The scheme needs revision, according to me also.

Baby Food Law

*202. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Was Baby food law flouted with a Vengeance" appearing in the `Times of India', Mumbai dated February 8, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether Government are aware of the contents of the study conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) wherein 198 samples of commercial brands of infant food were included;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to enquire into defects observed by ICMR and award deterrent punishment to the guilty manufacturers; and

(f) whether the Government propose to consider to ban the manufacture and advertisement of these defective products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

The news item which highlights the alleged violation of some of the provisions of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 has been seen.

ICMR had conducted a multicentric study which *inter alia* pointed towards the presence of some pesticide residues and some heavy metals in the samples of infant formula taken up for study. The presence of pesticide residues and heavy metal contaminants is a worldwide phenomenon and total elimination is not feasible. Residues continue to remain in the soil for decades and the use of DDT in India has been going on right from 1953 onwards. BHC has also remained in use for several years. In order to protect the consumer from exposure to health hazards maximum tolerance limits have been prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and rules thereunder. The study has recommended that samples of infant formula be assessed in a critical manner keeping in view the raw material and type of packaging used.

In the above study conducted by ICMR the methodology etc. was found to contain a number of flaws. The Council constituted a Core Committee to re-examine the report which gave its findings in December, 1996. The findings and recommendations are now to be placed before the Scientific Advisory Board which generally meets once in a year where wider issues like the magnitude of the problem, likely health hazards, international comparisons, validity and accuracy of the measurements, would be taken into consideration. ICMR has been directed to place the matter before the Board at the earliest.

The State Governments and Union Territories have been asked to administer the Infant Milk Substitute, Feeding Bottles and Infant Food (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 with all earnestness and steps have been taken to see that advertisement of these products is banned. Government has also adopted the WHO code in respect of promoting breast feeding and restricting the propagation of infant milk substitutes/infant formula.

Government has already banned the use of DDT and BHC in agriculture. A notification has been issued stopping the use of BHC even for public health from 01.04.97. It has also been decided to phase out the use of DDT which is only being used now under the National Malaria Eradication Programme in limited quantities. Pesticides would only be allowed to be used sparingly in the areas where the mosquito vector is particularly susceptible e.g., Bihar for Kala-azar and the North Eastern States for Malaria.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I raise the question, I would like to point out a typing mistake in it otherwise it would mean something else. My question at "A" is

[English]

> "Whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Waah! Baby food law flouted with a Vengeance".

[Translation]

It is written, which means.

[English]

'Waah', that means, it is an exclamation and then it continues, 'Baby Food law flouted with vengeance'.

[Translation]

It should be rectified and alongwith it is Question No. 202.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Members of the 10th Lok Sabha know that I had presented this Private Member's Bill in this House. Mamta ji was the Minister at that time. At that time she had agreed and later on the Government Bill was introduced and it was converted into a law. Now afterall this I have raised the question and the reply has been given. It is stated that the modification system of Indian Council of Medical Research is defective while it is a competent institution. Again, it is stated that a core committee has been set up to look into this matter and that committee has submitted its report in December, 1995. The scientific advisory board would study the recommendation of this core committee. The meeting of this board takes place once in a year. My question is that what are the recommendations of this committee, the details of the report and the views of this scientific advisory board in this regard. If the board has not held its meeting by when it is likely to be convened.

[English]

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : Sir, I share the hon. Member's concern that this matter has already taken too long. The report had been submitted, as mentioned here, by December, 1996. After going through the matter, I have now asked ICMR that this meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee should be called next month itself. They are meeting in April to look into this aspect of the matter.

SHRI RAM NAIK : What are the findings of the Core Group?

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : The Core Group has given certain findings which they want to be verified by the Scientific Advisory Committee. So, unless the Scientific Advisory Committee goes into the findings and gives its recommendations, I will not be in a position to tell you exactly what it is. But I have asked the Scientific Advisory Committee to meet next month itself and give its deliberations to us. We will be putting our time-bound programme on them so that they can come within the next, probably six to eight weeks.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has many provisions with a view to impose ban on baby food advertisement. It has a section.

[English]

The Act clearly stipulates that no container or label relating to infant milk substitute shall have a picture of an infant, or a woman, or have pictures of other graphic material or phrases, designed to increase the sale ability of infant milk substitute.

[Translation]

Now the legal provision is clear in it. What is there in the sample of 198, would be studied by the Medical Research Institute. My question is whether anything adverse to the law has been found on the outer picture of the advertisement? It has been stated that this work is done by the state Government but Doordarshan is under the control of the Central Government. So, whether it is telecast on Doordarshan in this way. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if something has come to his mind after observing the outer sample of the advertisement. If so, I would like to know whether any action has been taken by the Government and if anyone has been punished in this regard and if some fine has been imposed?

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : The Government has not received any such information.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : You have seen 198 samples from outside.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : Yes, I am just replying to that. The Infant Milk Substitute, Feeding Bottle, Infant Food (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 was enacted by the Department of Women and Child advertisement lies with the parent Department, i.e., the Department of Women and Child Welfare. It does not lie with us. In the meantime, what we do is, we coordinate with them and we try to take certain action. According to information available with me, four voluntary organisations have been authorised to check the enforcement of the provision relating to advertisements and no incident of violation of law on advertisement has been brought so far to the notice of the Ministry of Human Resources. This is the feedback that I have got from them.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : You have seen the sample. An advertisement is given outside the sample. Photos are given, there is a photo of children on it. What more do you think you should be shown? Everything is clearly given on it, what more do you want to be shown?

[English]

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : It has been brought to my notice that, as of today no one has filed anything against it. Regarding the point raised by the hon. Member that we can see it for ourselves, I will ask the Ministry to examine if any such violation has taken place because it is too soon for me to reply on this. I will ensure that action is taken.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Shri Ram Naik has drawn the attention of the Hon'ble Minister towards a mistake and I will draw your attention towards another mistake.

It has been said in the fourth para of Hindi reply that the Government has already issued a notification on 1.4.97 for banning the use of DDT and BAC in agriculture. Either there is something wrong with Hindi version or else I am wrong. Please rectify it.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : In place of 'Kar Di Gai Hai' (has been done) it should be 'Adhisuchna 1.4.97 'Ko Jaari Hogi' (Notification would be issued on 1.4.97).

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Use of DDT and BAC has been banned through out the country but still you consider that Kalazar and Malaria in Eastern India could be checked only by DDT and BAC. I have told earlier also that a 'Jadhari Doob' has been produced in Ayurved Research Institute, which is based on Neem (margosa). Whether the Hon'ble Minister will inform if his Department propose to procure the said 'doob' in large quantities and to distribute it as DDT. If so, by when it is likely to be materalised. DDT must be banned completely. It has failed to control malaria and instead it has spread in more areas. Please do inform us by when the 'doob' is likely to be adopted.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : I want to tell the Hon'ble Members that we have already banned it but it will come into effect from 1.4.97.

[English]

The order for ban has already been passed.

[Translation]

The other thing is that we have banned DAC but we have not banned DDT so far. A High Level Committee comprising of Health Secretary, Secretary Culture, Secretary Bio-technology and Planning Commission has been constituted which will restrict use of DDT carefully. It will be used to check the Kalazar in Bihar and Malaria in Eastern States where it is rampant.

So far the matter raised regarding Ayurved is concerned, I have already told that we had convened a meeting on Indian System of Medicines on 19th. We have formulated an action plan regarding the number of days in which any disease recurs and we have also passed a resolution in regard to Malaria. I also want to tell you that I am not going to confine use of Ayurved only to malaria but also for many other diseases. I will

personally send it when its action plan comes so that you can yourself see the field in which the Ayurved is used.

[English]

Independent Chartering of PSUs

*204. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to make it mandatory for all public sector undertakings to route their cargo through centralised chartering in the Ministry of Surface Transport;

(b) whether this decision has been taken to settle the stand off between his Ministry and other Ministries and PSUs;

(c) whether PSUs were demanding independent chartering rights to streamline their operations;

(d) the extent to which this decision is likely to be cost effective and ensure judicious use of foreign exchange; and

(e) the other terms and conditions fixed for Ministeries and PSUs under this decision?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, The Government policy of importing on FOB/FAS and exporting on C & F/CIF basis with centralised shipping arrangements through Chartering Wing of M/o Surface Transport has been in existence since 1958 and was recently reviewed and re-affirmed.

(c) Some of the PSUs were demanding import on C & F/CIF and export on FOB/FAS basis.

(d) This policy helps in utilisation of Indian vessels to the maximum extent possible, thus saving foreign exchange to that extent and strengthening of national merchant fleet, chartering of foreign vessels at most competitive rates resulting in saving of foreign exchange, ensuring timely arrivals and to make shipping arrangements to suit indentor's requirements.

(e) The other terms and conditions of the decision are as under :

(i) Prior permission is required to be obtained from Ministry of Surface Transport on a case to case basis in case of any departure from the above policy. However, Ministry of Surface Transport shall ensure disposal of such requests within four working days on receipt of the complete within four working days on receipt of the complete information/ request from the concerned Ministry/PSU.

(ii) Ministry of Surface Transport, Chartering Wing to ensure full utilisation of suitable Indian vessels in case they are able to meet the indentor's requirements at competitive rates and are able to maintain the time schedule.

(iii) In case of import of bulk quantities like fertilisers, coal, foodgrains etc. where freight element is substantial, a representative from Ministry of Surface Transport may be invited to participate in the discussions for advising on the shipping aspects of import/export contracts.

(iv) Ministry of Surface Transport should make all out efforts to finalise vessels, Indian or foreign, at the most competitive rates and before fixing the Vessels, prior approval of the indenting department/PSU should be obtained.

(v) In order to make imports and exports cost-effective and for judicious use of foreign exchange, Ministries/Departments should ensure imports on FOB/FAS and exports on CIF basis failing which necessary. No Objection Certificate (NOC) should be obtained from Ministry of Surface Transport (Chartering Wing) while applying for release of necessary foreing exchange for the purpose of chartering foreign vessels and for making freight payment in foreign currency.

(vi) The tendering system to be followed by Ministries/Departments/PSUs will be standardised.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Several amendments have been made to the law enacted in 1958. This is causing difficulties to people. But there has been no intervention from your side. Why not, this would be informed.

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, the Government policy of importing on FOB/FAS and exporting on C & F/CIF basis with centralised shipping arrangements through Chartering Wing has been In existence since 1958. This policy was enunciated recently from February, 1996 and it is being followed.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : You have done it in 1996, however, thereafter there have been drastic changes. Have you made any new policy in the